Insuring Farmers Against Fire Mishap

2241. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate publicity is made to insure farmers' production against fire mishap;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether "Mirchi' growers in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh threatened to immolate because of loss due to fire in cold storage in September, 1996;

(d) the steps proposed to compensate the loss of Rs. 9 crores to the growers; and

(e) the steps taken to rescue the farmers against such mishap in future?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) make adequate publicity on the importance of insurance of farmers' produce by arranging contact programmes with financing banks, managements of coldstorages and also farmers.

(c) Information was received about the occurence of a fire in a cold storage in Guntur on 4th Oct., 1996. No information regarding threats of self-immolation was, however, received.

(d) The subsidiary companies of GIC are taking necessary steps to assess the losses according to the terms and conditions of the insurance policy.

(e) The insurance companies will also actively propagate the need for increased insurance coverage for farm-produce explaining the benefits of insurance coverage to the farmers and cold storages. The need to take adequate precautions against fire mishaps in accordance with the procedures laid down in the relevant statutes and orders as also statutory/contractual obligations of the various agencies and farmers will be impressed upon the management of coldstorages, the financing institutions and also the farmers.

पर्यटक स्थलों पर कम्प्यूटरीकृत आरक्षण केन्द्र

2242. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार इस वर्ष देश के उन पर्यटक-स्थलों, जहां रेलवे सुविधा उपलब्ध नहीं है, विशेषकर पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में सिक्किम एवं हिमाचल प्रदेश में कुल्लू, मनाली एवं कांगड़ा इत्यादि में कम्प्यूटरीकृत आरक्षण केन्द्र खोलने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो किन-किन स्थानों पर इस प्रकार के केन्द्र कब तक खोल दिये जाएंगे;

(ग) क्या इस संबंध में जन-प्रतिनिधियों की ओर से भी ऐसी कोई मांग सरकार के समक्ष रखी गई है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और उस पर क्या कार्रवाई की गई है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) से (घ) शिमला में कम्प्यूटरीकृत आरक्षण सुविधाएं पहले से उपलब्ध है, चालू वित्त वर्ष की वार्षिक योजना में अगरतला, आईजोल, ईटानगर, इम्फाल, कोहिमा तथा गंगटोक के लिए इन सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था अनुमोदित कर दी गई हैं और इनके शीघ्र ही परिचालनिक होने की संभावना है, हिमाचल प्रदेश में कतिपय अन्य स्थानों पर इन सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था के संबंध में भी अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं, तथापि आरक्षण कार्यभार की अपर्याप्तता, मांग के कभी-कभार तथा आवधिक प्रकृति की होने तथा अवसंरचना की कमी आदि के कारण इन मांगों को पूरा कर पाना संभव नहीं हो पाया है।

Railway Projects in Orissa during Eighth Plan

2243. SHRI NARENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Railway Projects for Orissa during Eighth Five Year Plan and the position of implementation of these projects;

(b) the estimated expenditure of each Railway Project and amount spent thereon, so far;

(c) the funds earmarked this year for the projects; and

(d) the target for completion of each project the present pace of progres and by when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The required information is given as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the Project	Estimated Cost	Total Expenditure upto 31.03.1996	Outlay for 1996-97	Target Date of Completion	Position of Works
A. *New Lines*					
1. Daitari-Banspani	242.55	56.63	20.00	30.06.99	90% progress on 11 km, 10% on balance length
2. Khurda Rd.-Bolangir	353.38	2.02	1.00	30.6.99	Final survey done and land acquisition in progress
3. Lanjigarh Rd.-Junagarh	100.00	4.48	1.00	30.6.98	Land acquisition and other works in progress
4. Talcher-Sambalpur	348.41	92.47	50.00	31.03.97	30 km commissioned, balance in progress
5. Haridaspur-Paradeep	121.00	—	1.00	Not fixed	Final location survey in progress
6. Koraput-Rayagada	442.00	436.70	5.62	—	Commissioned for goods traffic
B. Gauge Conversion					
1. Rupsa-Bangriposi	57.95	3.00	0.50	Not fixed	Negotiation with owner Company in progress
C. *Doubling*					
1. Ambodala-Bissamcuttack Theruabali-Gumada	89.70	89.20	0.50	—	Partly commissioned
2. Joranda Rd-Hindol Rd.	31.60	30.60	1.00	—	Commissioned
3. Talchar-Hindol Rd	38.25	37.25	1.00	—	Commissioned
4. Rajatgarh-Nergundi	37.83	12.51	5.16	31.12.99	Work in full swing
5. Raghunathpur-Goraknath Raham	25.00	3.65	8.00	30.06.97	Work in full swing
6. Talchar-Cuttack-Paradeep (2nd bridge on Mahanadi & Birupa)	93.10	0.00	0.01	Not fixed	

Education in Tobacco Cultivation by CTRI

2244. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) is educating farmers on the proper utilisation of fertilizers in tobacco cultivation;

(b) if so, whether any camps for farmers have been organised in West Godavari and East Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the steps proposed to educate farmers on maintaining a balance between the nutrients?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Recommendations with regard to balanced use of fertilizer are being popularised among the farmers of East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh through farmers' meets, production technology pamphlets, All India Radio and Doordarshan programmes.

Gauge conversion and use of old materials

2245. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Metre Gauge Railway Lines converted into Broad Gauge with the names of lines and their lengths separately during the last five years; and

(b) whether the materials which were used in the Metre Gauge now converted into Broad